

record from the previous season was 2–14; a record that was repeated in Walsh's first season. It was only through his calm determination and intelligence for which he became famous that the 49ers returned to greatness.

Two years later, in 1981, the 49ers won their first Super Bowl, and "The Genius" earned his nickname as an innovative strategist, expert motivator and brilliant coach. His revolutionary tactics were soon known throughout the football world as the "West Coast Offense." Walsh's next seven years with the 49ers saw two more Super Bowl victories, and two legendary Hall of Fame quarterbacks—Joe Montana and Steve Young—who thrived under their brilliant coach's tutelage.

Resigning from his position with the 49ers following his Super Bowl win in early 1989, Walsh moved on to become a broadcaster at NBC. Later he assumed various roles with Stanford's football team and the 49ers. Even after being diagnosed with leukemia in 2004, he worked through 2005 as interim athletic director at Stanford. He wrote two bestselling books, was a motivational speaker, and taught classes at Stanford's business school. No matter what he did, Bill Walsh was always known for his exceptional intelligence and professionalism.

Madam Speaker, Bill Walsh earned respect where ever he went through his intelligent approach to the game and his demeanor, both on and off the field. I am honored to pay tribute to this great professional football icon and a proud son of the Bay Area. With his passing earlier this week, he leaves behind a lasting legacy of successful protégés and reverent fans. I invite my colleagues today, to join me in honoring the life and the legacy of Bill Walsh—coach, leader, teacher and an outstanding American.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the passage of H.R. 3161, The 2008 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations bill. Chairwoman ROSA DELAUNO has done excellent work to create fiscally and morally responsible legislation that reinvests in rural America, protects public health, improves nutritional standards for all Americans, all while transforming our future energy and conservation goals.

This legislation represents a new direction in the way we invest in our families and our farmers. It is a direction towards improving the health and well-being of all communities and

to implement policies which put middle and working-class families center-stage. In rural America, H.R. 3161 provides significant increases to grants and loans for critical community facilities, affordable loans for low and moderate-income families in rural areas, with no increase in fees, and substantially increases affordable loans and grants for farm worker housing. There is also a large increase in funding for affordable home loans in rural areas that will ultimately double the number of homeowners from the 2002 level, by 2010.

In the areas of public health and nutrition, H.R. 3161 offers more than a billion dollars that will provide Americans with jobs in the food safety and inspection industry, improves food and drug safety regulations, and protects programs that feed women, infants, children, and the elderly. This bill increases funds for such programs as the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable, and Simplified Summer Food programs that provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families, as well as specialty crop grants to encourage more fruit and vegetable consumption. Most importantly, in the Food Stamp Program, this bill not only increases funding to accommodate growing participation, but it excludes special pay for military personnel in eligibility determination, and rejects the administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps that will exclude needy families who are receiving certain other services.

The Agriculture Committee has also taken into consideration our need for renewable energy and conservation by allocating over \$2 billion in funding for renewable energy loans and grants to businesses to grow our economy, create new jobs, lower energy prices, and reduce global warming. Furthermore, H.R. 3161 provides resources for research, aid to farmers and ranchers, and loans to businesses. The bill also restores many programs the President would have cut or eliminated, including the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Resource Conservation and Development, and the watershed programs.

Mr. Chairman, I am extremely proud of my colleagues for their efforts in maintaining the lifeline of all Americans—our farms, nutrition, and energy policies.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3161, which strengthens our rural communities, while making sure that the American people

have adequate, safe and nutritious food to eat. Let me commend the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee, Ms. DELAUNO, for her exceptional leadership in crafting such extraordinary legislation to combat hunger, obesity and malnutrition in our nation and around the world. That is why I strongly support this bill.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 allows us to reinvest in the often forgotten but most vitally important rural areas of America. H.R. 3161 is designed to sustain the vitality of rural America, as well as protecting public health and food safety, improving nutrition and healthy eating, and promoting renewable energy and conservation in America.

Mr. Chairman, more than 3 million households in the rural America continue to have inadequate or no water or sewer service at all. H.R. 3161 is the solution to this disparity in that it provides \$500 million for rural water and waste disposal grants, a 14 percent increase over 2007, and \$1 billion for water and waste direct loans for the fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, recent food scares—about peanut butter and lettuce—have made Americans nervous about where their food originates. H.R. 3161 tackles these concerns and addresses the importance of food safety. This bill fully funds the Food Safety and Inspection Service at USDA, shifts funds to fill vacancies in federal meat inspector positions, invests in research, and funds a transformation of FDA food safety regulations. It also prohibits imported poultry products from China, and sets a timeline for USDA to implement critical country of origin labeling for our meat supply after 6 years of Republican delays.

In addition, H.R. 3161 provides a special supplemental nutritional program for women, infants, and children other known as (WIC). This provision is so essential because it affords many women, especially women of color in lower income brackets, the opportunity to care for themselves and their newborns after birth. Without programs such as WIC, many mothers would not be able to maintain a healthy lifestyle during pregnancies and after childbirth. Because of WIC, mothers can afford their nutritional foods they need to sustain their pregnancies and avoid miscarriages, stillbirths and defects caused by malnourishment during pregnancy. H.R. 3161 invests \$233.4 million (4 percent) more than the President to feed more than 8 million pregnant women, mothers and children next year.

Mr. Chairman, hunger is not a problem facing not only the international community faces, but it is also a problem in our own country. Many women, children, and the elderly should not wake and go to bed hungry in our great Nation, but tragically this happens all too often in the cities and villages and small towns of our great country.

The commodity supplemental food program provides \$500,000 monthly in the year 2007. H.R. 3161 increases funding in this area to allow people in five additional states to participate in the program and expand those getting food in states already in the program. In addition, under the Food Stamp Benefit provision, H.R. 3161 protects the most vulnerable and helpless; families of soldiers in combat. Like the recently passed Farm bill, the measure ensures that the families of soldiers in combat are not penalized under the Food Stamp program. It also rejects the Administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps by excluding needy families who are receiving certain other services.